

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

14 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba-USSR

a. Three Soviet passenger ships arrived in Cuba during the past month with Soviet military personnel aboard.

b. We estimate some 1,500 Soviet military personnel have thus arrived

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2. Cuba

a. Raul Castro's reference to a conscription law forthcoming on 1 December for all males between 17 and 45 fulfills a promise made by Fidel last July.

b. At that time Castro admitted frankly that one of the law's main purposes was to make sure there were no parasites in the Cuban economy.

(Cont'd)

c. Raul also referred to some 7,000 Cuban soldiers now enrolled in "special weapons" courses.

d. In addition to those at the SAM sites, this category probably includes those training in communications, radar, cruise missiles, and anti-tank or tactical missiles.

3. NATO

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4. North Vietnam -
France

a. North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van-dong has told the French delegate in Hanoi that, although US-inspired, the coup in Saigon was a step in the right direction.

b. This comes from a report given Ambassador Bohlen [redacted]

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c. Pham is said to have expressed the view that the US would eventually tire of fighting, and, when this happened, Hanoi would show itself to be as flexible as it is now rigid.

d. Pham added that now was not the time for negotiations.

e. The belief that the US would ultimately tire of the war, after which a "political solution" would be possible, is a standard French line, [redacted]

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f. It is a view we are sure Pham Van-dong shares.

5. Communist
China

a. We estimate grain losses since August from flooding in the North China plain to be in the neighborhood of five million tons.

b. Even so, Peiping has made no effort to start contracting for grain imports which will soon be sorely needed.

c. The world market is becoming tight, and sources to supply even the five million tons imported this past year will be difficult to find.

d. Peiping is, nevertheless, busy buying machinery in Western Europe, for the first time in recent years, and may not intend to buy much grain abroad despite the suffering that might ensue.

6. Yemen - Saudi
Arabia - Egypt

a. Yemeni leaders say they would welcome a chance to talk with the Saudis, whether in Yemen or at some neutral site. They will not go to Jidda.

b. The Egyptians (at least those in Yemen) say they, too, would like to see some accommodation worked out between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

(Cont'd)

c. Nasir would want a say in any decision reached, but we are sure he would welcome an agreement which would permit a substantial Egyptian withdrawal without serious damage.

d. Faysal's views on the proposed talks are not yet clear, although he will probably hold out for participation by a member of the Imam's family, which would not be a promising condition.

e. He has said, however, that he could put up with any regime in Sana so long as it was not Egyptian.

7. Indonesia

a. Foreign Minister Subandrio is now also First Vice Prime Minister and number-two man after Sukarno, who took to himself the post of Prime Minister.

b. Subandrio, who has been standard bearer for Sukarno's anti-Malaysia campaign, thus came out best in the cabinet shuffle that followed Djuanda's death.

(Cont'd)

c. This has meant a drop in relative standing for more moderate Defense Minister Nasution.

d. The two Communist cabinet members remain in the cabinet, but still without portfolio.

8. Cambodia-US

a. Sihanouk continues his ranting.

b. In a three-hour speech at a "press conference" yesterday he said withdrawal of US aid would be an "immense relief" and he hopes it will happen by the end of the year "to put an end to humiliations which are intolerable to us."

c. Peiping, delighted, is meanwhile publicizing a message from Sihanouk expressing thanks for Peiping's "disinterested assistance... for the consolidation of our economic independence and particularly for the creation of our state industry."

d. Peiping's total economic assistance to Cambodia in the past eight years has been less than \$50 million (all in grants). Ours totals over \$250 million.

(Cont'd)

e. Ambassador Sprouse says Sihanouk is overworked and exhausted. A rigorous diet is not helping.

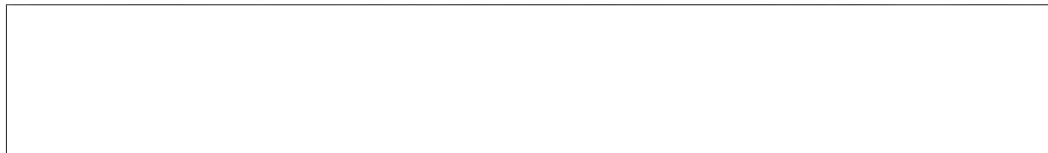
f. On top of this, Sprouse says, Sihanouk's fears of overthrow and assassination have been magnified by the events in Saigon and he is convinced CIA is inciting his enemies.

g. Ambassador Sprouse believes Sihanouk's tirade was delivered without any consultation with his advisers and that moderating influences are now working on him. He sites preliminary reports of a later speech in which Sihanouk said he recognized the usefulness of US economic aid and that he would leave the decision of whether or not to continue military aid to the Cambodian armed forces.

NOTES

- A. Iraq All army division commanders have declared their loyalty to the Bakr regime. Baghdad is quiet and the curfew has been lifted. Although calm is restored, moderate Baathists, who are probably stronger in the government than in the party, will continue to have trouble with the radical faction.
- B. Communist Bloc - Egypt - US Ambassador Badeau says Communist diplomats in Cairo have shown greatest interest in getting details of the Gruening amendment and the foreign aid bill. They seem particularly interested in its effect on the PL-480 program in Cairo.
- C. Britain The British press has not been so kind as ours in reporting on Lord Home's first day in Parliament. Even Tory media say he lost points, particularly on domestic issues.
- D. Canada-US Canadian manufacturers are clamoring to get in on the tariff rebate scheme which is intended to promote exports and reduce US "domination" of Canadian industries. So far it applies only to automotive products, but our embassy is not so sure the government will leave it at that unless we put our foot down hard.
- E. Pakistan-Japan As they said they would, the Japanese denied Pakistan's request for onward air rights from China to Tokyo. The Pakistanis think we put the Japanese up to it.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST



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